Attorney Docket No. 22948.00 Confirmation No. 4682

Application No. : 10/762,291

Art Unit : 3746

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant proposes to amend Claims 1 and 14. Upon

entry of the proposed amendment, Claims 1-17 will remain for consideration. Claims 1 and

11 are independent claims.

In the Final Office Action Claim 14 was objected to because of an informality.

Applicant has amended the instant claim to replace the term "stopper" with -- plug – at line

7 in compliance with he Examiner's suggestion. Also, the comma (",") at line 7 in Claim 1

has been deleted after "air" and a comma has been inserted after "line" to correct an obvious

error. These amendments should obviate the objections to these particular claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing

to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner appears to raise two questions

on page 2 of the rejection.

First, The Examiner states that it is not clear that all the air is dispelled through outlet

26. Applicant concedes that the use of the adjective "all" is misleading. The descriptive

phrase "substantially all" more accurately describes the conditions in the chamber during the

dispelling process. In the interest of clarity, the specification has been amended

accordingly.

9

Application No. : 10/762,291 Attorney Docket No. 22948.00 Art Unit: 3746 Confirmation No. 4682

Second, it is unclear to the Examiner when and why the plunger unseats from the

liquid inlet when there is pressurized air continuously entering the chamber. The Examiner

considers that a step or information is missing from the specification (for example an air

compressor or control valve cut off). In section 7 of the rejection (page 4-2nd paragraph), the

Examiner appears to answer the query as to when and why the plunger unseats from the

inlet. Applicant considers that the above-cited paragraph provides an adequate explanation

regarding the unseating of the plunger.

The third paragraph of section 7 questions the ability of a sealed (underlined for

emphasis) chamber to attain a pressure drop to approximately 10 psi. It is noted that

Applicant's chamber is <u>not</u> sealed. Outlet 26a provides an opening to a lower pressure

environment. Applicant has determined that when liquid and air are dispelled through outlet

26a there is a momentary pressure drop to approximately 10psi which allows the plunger to

fall back to seal the inlet even though air continues to enter.

An advantage of Applicant's invention is that, with the exception of the plunger,

there is a dearth of moving parts, cut-off valves or switches that might fail or require

maintenance. This dearth greatly reduces operating costs.

Applicant has made a bona fide effort to respond to the Examiner's questions.

Except for the minor revisions to Claims 1 and 14, Claims 1-17 remain unchanged, no new

issues having been presented. Entry of the proposed amendment is respectfully requested.

10

Application No. : 10/762,291

Art Unit: 3746

Attorney Docket No. 22948.00

Confirmation No. 4682

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolph H. Torrence

Registration No. 34,501

(703) 486-1000

DHT:egf